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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

NFAC 2009-80 18 March 1980

National Intelligence Officers

Major General E. R. Thompson Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence US Department of the Army Room 2E464 The Pentagon

Dear Ed.

To follow up on my telephone call of 17 March, I forward copies of recent action here towards promoting better collection and analysis within the Intelligence Community concerning Soviet armor-protection and Soviet armor-penetrant.

Enclosure 1 is a copy of the paper entitled US Intelligence and Soviet Armor which has been the basic vehicle for the actions described below. Enclosure 2 is a copy of the DCI's letter of 13 March 1980 to General Meyer, which describes action taken per CSA's request, and asks for loan of an Army engineer/analyst for OSWR.

Enclosure 3 consists of copies of the memoranda to the Chairman of the WSSIC and STIC, directing them to establish the new PCP. To launch the STIC effort, I will meet with the Committee on 20 March (Lt. Col. Hope will be present), and then accompany the Committee on a visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground (BRL) on 3 April.

As of your S&T division has no doubt reported, we were successful in designating Soviet armor and Soviet anti-tank weapons as "category 1" topics in the forthcoming Competing Analysis Guidelines, which will probably be published as a DCID. As I understand it, this action establishes these issues as ones to which all agencies of the Intelligence Community are expected to contribute.

I understand that all the foregoing consist of organizational, not substantive progress. But I hope that we have thereby opened possibilities for the latter which have heretofore been denied the Army. If you can move adroitly within this new framework, we might eliminate some of the "bathtub phenomenon" of which you spoke to STIC. Knowing that people are central to any organization, I urge that you find a competent and energetic person--military or civilian, grade far less important than ability--to steer the PCP effort within OSWR for the next 6 to 12 months (time negotiable).

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- Enclosures:
 1 "Armor" Paper
 2 DCI's letter to CSA
 - 3 Memos to C/WSSIC and STIC

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